

MISSISSIPPI WIRELESS COMMUNICATION COMMISSION

April 6, 2006 Meeting Minutes

Place: MDOT 1st floor auditorium

Meeting was called to order at 1:40 pm by Chairman George Phillips.

Commission Members Present:

MS Department of Public Safety	George Phillips
MS Department of Corrections	Chris Epps
MS Association of Fire Chiefs	Derrick Layton (for Tom Lariviere)
MS Association of Police Chiefs	Tommy Moffett
MS Department of Environmental Quality	Clovis Reed
MS Department of Information Technology Services	David Litchliter
MS Department of Transportation	Willie Huff
MS Emergency Management Agency	Tom McAllister
MS Highway Patrol	Michael Berthay
MS Municipal League	Gene McGee
MS Sheriffs' Association	James Newman
MS Supervisors Association	Joel Yelverton
SafeCity Initiative	Mark McCreery
MS National Guard	Gary Ladd

Advisory Members Present:

Representative Clayton Smith	Senator Tom King
Representative Johnny Stringer	

Chairman George Phillips called the meeting to order at 1:40 pm. Chairman Phillips asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the last meeting. Chris Epps made the motion, and it was seconded by Joel Yelverton. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Chairman Phillips asked for a legislative update. David Litchliter reported that no bonds were authorized for expenditure by the WCC. Senator Tom King stated that 17 to 18 million dollars has been received from the federal government, and Mr. Phillips acknowledged that these funds were designated for the WCC in the Katrina Relief Package. The actual amount will be whatever is left over after the needs of the local government entities have been met. Mr. Phillips also pointed out that a portion of the 17 million dollars would be used for the interim solution for this year's hurricane season. Senator King stated that it is the will of the legislature to bond money for the WCC in the next legislative session. Mr. Litchliter concluded by stating that the WCC is strongly supported by the Governor's Office and the legislature.

Willie Huff stated that the WCC should not delay requests to upgrade equipment from the local governments in an effort to wait on the State. Joel Yelverton agreed and stated that his committee would act promptly on all requests.

Joel Yelverton reported for the approvals committee. Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics submitted a request to add the push-to-talk feature to their existing cellular plan. The amount for the feature is \$23,000, but the total amount for cellular service will be over the \$100,000 limit with the additional features. Mr. Yelverton stated that his committee recommends that the Commission approve the request. Because of his relationship with MBN, Chairman Phillips abstained. Chris Epps asked for a vote. The request was unanimously approved.

Mr. Yelverton reported on the request from Warren County to upgrade an existing 911 computer system, which would cost \$906,000. Willie Huff explained the request in detail, and the existing computer system was discussed. Mr. Huff made a motion to approve the request. Gary Ladd seconded the motion, and it was passed with none opposed.

Clovis Reed reported for the Cellular Committee. A draft of the Cellular RFP is ready and will be shared with the committee. David Litchliter explained that the legislature is concerned about the cost and appropriate use of wireless communication devices. The Commission discussed Senate Bill 2398, which includes a section on wireless devices. He stated that the Commission should get input from the Commission's legislative advisors regarding intent of the legislation. Willie Huff stated that the new restriction is one device per state employee. ITS is preparing a summary of the scope of the current draft RFP for discussion with the Commission and other interested parties.

There was no report from the Integrating Needs Committee.

Chris Epps reported for the RFP Committee. He stated that the committee has not met since the release of the RFP. Sheila Kearney of ITS reported that 123 questions have been received and that April 21st is the deadline for questions to be answered. The next step is to finalize the evaluation methodology.

Willie Huff reported on Interoperability. The three coastal counties have in-house capabilities to communicate with state agencies if devices from each agency are provided to each county. Mr. Huff questioned whether the state agencies would be responsible for the cost of supplying each county with a radio or if that would be paid by the WCC. Chairman Phillips stated that it was not the intent of the legislature for the WCC to absorb the cost of each individual agency's interoperability. Bill Buffington of DPS stated that the cost of supplying the radios would be around \$5,000 per agency. Mr. Huff explained that there are not enough frequency ranges to do this type of interoperability today.

There was no report of old or new business.

The next meeting will be May 4, 2006, in the MDOT Auditorium.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 pm.